

Message Text

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COM:IEPR:OIFI:VTRAVAGLINI(DRAFT)
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TREASURY:MFELDMAN(PHONE)
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SUBJECT: FRG AND EC COMMISSION CONCERN OVER PROPOSED

REF: A. BONN A-13 OF 11 JAN 75

B. BONN 2833 OF 19 FEB 75

C. BONN 3081 OF 24 FEB 75

D. USEC 1701 OF 27 FEB 75

1. SUMMARY - PARALLEL TO DISCUSSIONS REPORTED REFTELS
REFLECTING GERMAN AND EC CONCERN OVER NTB EFFECTS OF THE
PROSPECTIVE ADOPTION BY U.S. INDUSTRY OF METRIC FASTENER
STANDARD, STATE AND COMMERCE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH EC
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DELEGATION AND U.S. INDUSTRY IN AN ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY

EUROPEAN AND U.S. INDUSTRY POSITIONS. INQUIRIES SHOW NO EVIDENCE OF U.S. INDUSTRY INTENT TO FORCE UNNECESSARY CONVERSION COSTS ON THE EUROPEANS. U.S. INDUSTRIAL FASTENERS INSTITUTE CLAIMS THAT BY PROPOSING INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION OF THE OPTIMUM METRIC FASTENER SYSTEM (OMFS), IT SEEKS TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENTS WHICH ARE COMPATIBLE WITH ISO STANDARD IN MOST RESPECTS. HOWEVER, METRIC J FASTENER STANDARD DEVELOPED BY U.S. AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY ALSO STRONGLY CONTENTS FOR ISO RECOGNITION. DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS.

2. OMFS ACTIVITY - THE OMFS COMMITTEE, WAS FORMED IN 1971, UNDER THE AEGIS OF ANSI, (A PRIVATE STANDARDS GROUP) TO RECOMMEND METRIC FASTENER STANDARDS FOR USE BY U.S.

INDUSTRY. AT THAT TIME THERE WERE NO U.S. METRIC NATIONAL STANDARDS. THE OMFS COMMITTEE FELT THAT METRIC CONVERSION WAS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO SEARCH OUT TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENTS, TO INVESTIGATE BETTER UTILIZATION OF RAW MATERIALS,

AND TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF DIFFERENT FASTENERS. ACCORDING TO OMFS COMMITTEE SPOKESMAN ISO HAS BEEN FORMALLY APPRISED OF OMFS WORK IN PROGRESS SINCE MAY 1973. OMFS CONSIDERS ITS STANDARDS AS ONLY A MODIFICATION TO ISO STANDARDS AND COMPATIBLE, IN MOST RESPECTS, DEPENDING ON INDUSTRY TOLERANCE REQUIREMENTS. OMFS HOPES THAT COMPROMISES CAN RESULT IN A SINGLE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD.

3. OMFS TECHNICAL RECOMMENDATIONS - SOME RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE OMFS COMMITTEE ARE: (A) LARGER ROOT RADIUS OF INTERNAL THREADS (BOLTS) AND A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN THE MINOR DIAMETER OF INTERNAL THREADS (NUTS) FOR GREATER FASTENER STRENGTH. (B) SELECTION OF 25 DIAMETER SIZES FROM 1.6 MM THRU 100 MM OF WHICH ONLY THE 6.3 MM DIFFERS FROM ISO SIZES. THE 6.3 MM HAS BEEN INCLUDED FOR USE ONLY IN THE U.S. AS A REQUIRED INTERMEDIATE SIZE BETWEEN 5 MM AND 8 MM. (C) 4 MODIFICATIONS ARE RECOMMENDED TO ISO STANDARDS ON THE STRENGTH PROPERTY CLASS SYSTEM FOR EXTERNALLY THREADED FASTENERS -- THE ADDITION OF A NEW PROPERTY CLASS; USE OF JUST SIX OF THE TWELVE ISO PROPERTY CLASSES; SIZE SELECTIVITY WITHIN EACH CLASS; AND MODEST STRENGTH PROPERTY UPGRADING; AND (D) IN ORDER TO CONSERVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RAW MATERIALS, OMFS RECOMMENDS THAT THE HEX NUT SERIES IN THE USA REDUCE THE WIDTH OF NUTS ACROSS FLATS IN CERTAIN SIZES AND REDUCE HEAD HEIGHTS OF NUTS IN CERTAIN OTHER SIZES.

4. SHANNON MEETING - ON FEBRUARY 17-18 FASTENER INDUSTRY EXPERTS FROM CANADA, FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, SWEDEN, U.K. AND U.S. MET INFORMALLY IN SHANNON, IRELAND TO RECONCILE

DIFFERENCES. THE EXPERTS ATTEMPTED TO COME UP WITH A PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE NATIONAL STANDARDS BODIES OF THE COUNTRIES REPRESENTED. REPORTEDLY TECHNICAL COMPROMISES WERE DISCUSSED WHICH MAY LEAD TO RESULTS SATISFACTORY TO ALL CONCERNED. ALTHOUGH EXPERTS ATTENDED THE MEETING IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL CAPACITIES AND COULD NOT MAKE COMMITMENTS FOR THEIR INDUSTRIES THEY WILL PRESENT THE COMPROMISES TO THEIR RESPECTIVE NATIONAL BODIES FOR REVIEW. THIS MAY THEN PAVE THE WAY FOR A POSSIBLE ISO SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING IN APRIL.

5. METRIC J - IT SHOULD BE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS NO UNANIMITY OF VIEW AMONG U.S. INDUSTRY INTERESTS. THERE ARE NOW TWO GROUPS IN U.S. WHICH HAVE METRIC SCREW THREAD STANDARDS: THE OMFS GROUP (AUTOMOTIVE) AND THE

AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY WHICH FAVORS METRIC J STANDARDS. NO COMPROMISE HAS BEEN NEGOTIATED TO CREATE ONE NATIONAL METRIC STANDARD IN U.S. THE USG INTERDEPARTMENTAL SCREW THREAD COMMITTEE (ISTC), CHAIRED BY NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS, IS CONSULTING WITH BOTH GROUPS SO THAT ONE STANDARD CAN BE ESTABLISHED FOR USE IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT. AN ISTC MEETING IS SCHEDULED ON MARCH 7 FOR THIS PURPOSE. IF METRIC J STANDARD IS ADOPTED FOR USG PROCUREMENT PURPOSES, THEN THE OMFS MAY LOSE ITS POTENTIAL FOR WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE IN THE U.S. AT AN ISO SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING (ISO/TC20/S4), DURING THE WEEK OF 24 FEB, THE METRIC J STANDARD WAS ACCEPTED. HOWEVER, VOTING MUST BE BY THE FULL TC 20 COMMITTEE BEFORE METRIC J IS RECOGNIZED BY ISO AS AN INTERNATIONAL FASTENER STANDARD.

6. ACTION - POSTS, IN DISCUSSING OMFS WITH INTERESTED HOST OFFICIALS, MAY DRAW ON THE ABOVE, AT THEIR DISCRETION, AS WELL AS RELATE THE FOLLOWING: (A) THE OMFS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMITTEE VIEWS ITS WORK AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADOPT TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENTS AND NOT FOR NTB PURPOSES; (B) USE OF THE OMFS STANDARD IS VOLUNTARY AS ARE THE ISO STANDARDS AND USG HAS NO OFFICIAL CONTROL OVER PRIVATE U.S. FIRMS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS STANDARD; (C) THE OMFS COMMITTEE MAINTAINS THAT THERE IS NO DISCRIMINATION IN THIS ISSUE SINCE U.S. INDUSTRY WILL HAVE TO MAKE THE SAME, IF NOT GREATER, ADJUSTMENTS IN RETOOLING TO MEET THE NEW STANDARDS; (D) THE COMMITTEE ALSO INDICATES THAT OMFS AND ISO STANDARDS ARE IN MANY CASES INTERCHANGEABLE, DEPENDING ON TOLERANCES; (E) THE METRIC FASTENER PROBLEM IS ILLUSTRATIVE OF A KIND OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ISSUE WHICH THE DRAFT GATT STANDARDS CODE IS DESIGNED TO DEAL WITH. AS THE USG HAS BEEN POINTING OUT TO EC COUNTRIES, AN EARLY AGREEMENT ON THE

CODE WOULD BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AND SHOULD RECEIVE HIGH
PRIORITY AT THE MTN. INGERSOLL

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